

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENT COUNCIL

Thursday 5th December 2019

18:00 Morley Room

PRESENT: Gemma Lovegrove (President); Ryan Bradshaw (VPUD); Katy Baker (VP Welfare); Tre Ventour (VP BME); Thomas Weaver (Sports Officer); Anthony Stepniak (PGR Officer); Catriona Doyle (Disabled Students Officer); Paul Dinsmore (LGBTQ Officer); Sami Ullah (International Students Officer); Otomiewo Tegorgor (Soc Chair); Marika Hall (Soc); Katie Johnson (Soc); Claudia Gyngell (Soc); Charlie Hughes (AU); Cameron Simpson (AU); Danielle Ward (AU); Beth Garrett (Ed Chair); Louise Dowson (Ed); Sam Dorywala (Ed); Hannah Fitzpatrick (Ed); Hannah Jones (Ed);

APOLOGIES: Cameron Vanloo (VP Education); Janea Bernabe (Societies Officer); Katerina Nurcelli (Changemaker Officer); Jack Farnell (AU Chair); Ratri Mauricio (AU); Nicole Mashonganyika (Soc); Steph Chaudri (AU);

ABSENT: Linnall Emanuel (BME part-time officer);

MINUTES: Lucinda Maiden (Democracy Coordinator)

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of interest – none

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- Louise Dowson – unanimously elected as chair (20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain)
- Beth Garratt – unanimously elected as vice chair (20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain)

4. Minutes – October, Nov – unanimous vote to approve (20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain)

5. Issues from minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

6. Bye-law amendments

- Council
 - LM – Talk through. New process for bring items to council. Bring the idea to council, working group created. This group will work with the democracy coordinator to develop the idea into working policy which will be submitted to council for approval.
 - Introduce a limit of three active mandates for officers. If an officer has more than three mandates then council will vote on which three to prioritise.
 - Vote – 18 for, 0 against, 1 abstain
- Committee
 - GL/LM/AS talk through changes. Restructured committees (loss of MSA, VSEC, Media) to reflect the restructuring of the whole organisation
 - Vote - 18 for, 2 against, 0 abstain
- Officer
 - Introduction of a paid, part-time vice president for PGR. To fully represent an entire cohort which is currently distanced from the SU.
 - Three part-time officer positions, which are no longer relevant or have not been filled for more than two terms, have been removed. These are Ethics and Environment officer, entertainments officer and Moulton College Officer.
 - Vote – 20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. This is provided funding is secured for the new position.
- Referenda

- No major changes, provides more clarity and guidance on the practical and logistical side of referenda
- Vote – 20 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

7. Policy

- Email
 - RB – all important information to go out via email
 - vote – yes 20
- Support services – GL – renewal
 - Q – why would this one work when the last one didn't?
 - Vote – yes 20
- Initiations
 - GL –
 - Vote – yes 20
- Pronoun –
 - PD – Respect people's pronouns, staff required to have their pronouns in their email signatures etc.
 - Question from observer – Is this the policy that you do not have to follow? Ans – certain elements are required (made mandatory for SU staff), others are about encouraging a space where any preferred pronouns are accepted.
 - Vote – 19 yes, one abstain
- Sexual harassment
 - GL – builds on zero tolerance approach of previous sexual harassment policy. Gives definition of what the union considers sexual harassment
 - Q – Observer – gender neutral toilets. A. depends of self-identification
 - Vote – yes 20
- Discrimination
 - PD – Zero tolerance against any form of discrimination
 - Vote – Yes 20
- Equal access
 - GL – right to education and asylum seekers
 - Q – Is the university of sanctuary
 - Vote - Yes 20
- Single use plastic
 - RB - re-working of the previous plastic bag and plastic straw policy.
 - Vote – yes 20
- Fresh food – vote to not renew
 - RB – not applicable anymore
 - Q – Is there going to be a community fridge at waterside?
 - Vote – yes 19, no 1 (int.)
- Racial segregation – vote to approve the decision to let lapse
 - TV – form of discrimination so comes under the discrimination policy
 - Q – policy about forcing students to line up
 - Vote – yes 19, abstain 1

8. Reports

- Trustee – sept report as read – Dec.

- Finance – Finance committee – the Union is in a stable position. Looked into the commercial services (platform) – trustees happy.
- Q – will the reports/minutes from previous meetings be available? A – taking advisement on what can be published due to the sensitive nature of some of the content
- Officer reports
 - 8..1. October
 - taken as read, discussed at October Council
 - vote – yes 20
 - 8..2. November
 - taken as read, updates given at November Council
 - vote yes20
 - 8..3. December

President

- Academic review to student – DVC – on website
- Social work masters and UG – students unhappy
- Evaluate the learn system – online reporting – issues in law modules
- New engagement policy – issues – 5 students withdrawn from studies due to lack of engagement – proved
- Weekly sabbatical impact meetings
- OIA – officer of independent adjudicator – issues with Uni
- No questions
- Vote yes 20

VP UD

- Uni operational student group
- Sports dome issues etc.
- Budget – refreshers – working on at the moment
- Charity events
- Highlight how well sports are doing
- Mental health first aid training with Katy (VP Welfare)
- Charity bike ride
- Vote – 19 yes

VP ED

- GL in CV absence
- Dealing with education committee
- CA training with Chris (commendation)
- Work surrounding integrating PGR representation with AS (PGR officer) and LM (democracy Coordinator)
- University Challenge – first time UoN involved
- Worked on a solution to issues with printing
- IT forum 10th Dec – owls nest 3-6
- Q – email CV with Questions
- Vote – yes 19

VP Welfare

- Sit on wellbeing steering groups with the Uni – different departs – areas in need of improvement – aim to get best wellbeing campus
- Bring in student voice, help staff Signposting
- LGBT accommodation - praise from PD for Katy Support
- Signposting to MH services
- Sexual health awareness day
- Q – None
- Vote – yes 20

VP BME

- BAME Attainment gap - BAME students compared to white Home (7%)
- Bigger issue with 25.1% black British home students less likely to get 1st/2.1
- Reasons: many but common – don't feel part of t
- Conferences - BAME attainment gap, racism in HE – Decolonisation of the curriculums
- Wed – attendants didn't like BAME/BME
- Seen as one and not the multicultural group that it is
- Huge red flag to PoC
- Most people don't like the term but questions surrounding the
- Unofficial meeting with new DVC - good ideas
- Institutional racism
- McFearson report – police investigation into steven laurance
- Police, NHS, Univesrities
- Work with PD with LGBT history month – intersectionality
- Q – Decolonising the curriculum. Making the curriculum more inclusive in general
- Vote – yes 19

Sports

- Promoting
- Planning stages for 1st home varsity
- Talks positive, encouraging
- Sports awards
- Deputy sports subject leader meeting
- Open days – push teams
- Working on campaigns
- LGBT/sport – history month – rainbow laces
- Student experience steering group – issues – facilities/varsity
- KB – MH in sports / experience of high level sport
- BUCS Wednesday
- Q – no
- Vote – yes 19

No longer quorate

Societies officer

- 1 abstain / 17 yes
- BME

- Yes /abstain 2
- Disabled
- Offer drop-in sessions
- GL = supporting
- Car Park 4 – students
- Disclosing disability vent = successful
- Issues with Assist
- Vote – yes 18

International students officer

- Societies
- Discussions with individuals, signposting
- Meeting with LM
- Communication for international students
- Q – received help you requested? A. help from GL and LM. Wants to publically thank LM
- Vote – yes 18

Changemaker officer

- Absent – report taken as read – questions forwarded onto them
- Vote – yes 18

PGR –

- Met with DVC and VC
- Teaching opportunities
- Continued running of PGR Space
- Supporting move to waterside for course remaining at avenue
- Currently filming 4th and final video in a series for PGR students
- Continued work on awards, including new research student award with changemaker
- No questions
- Votes – yes 18

9. Committee meetings

- Societies committee
 - 9..1. Oct + Nov – Vote 18
 - 9..2. 2nd Nov – Soc Chair
 - VC resignation
 - Q – no
 - Vote - 19
- Athletic Union committee
 - 9..1. Oct + Nov
 - Taken as read
 - vote – 19 for
- Education committee
 - 9..1. Oct + Nov
 - Taken as read

- vote – 19 for

9..2. 2nd Nov

- Conversation around the issue of university removing unlimited free printing
- Food and other services available at evenings and weekends – issue for staff as well
- Sports dome – impact on lectures
- No questions
- Vote – yes 18

10. Issues arising from committee minutes

11. Any other business

- Committee bye-law procedural motion – number of members needed for a student group to be ratified/reaffiliated. 15 members, this has an impact for societies - procedural motion to amend this figure from 15 members to 10 members.
- Vote – yes 18. However, council no longer quorate, to be voted on a January council

12. Date of next meeting

- 30th January